

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS

SEPTEMBER 6, 2016

Endorsement of the City of Los Angeles' \$1.2 Billion Dollar Homelessness Reduction and Prevention, Housing and Facilities General Obligation Bond

The 2016 Homeless Count results provided data which proves that the overall number of homeless persons in Los Angeles County (County) had increased compared to the previous year, by 6% to 46,874 persons. In the County, the number of unsheltered homeless persons living on the street, in encampments, tents and vehicles increased by 11%. In the City of Los Angeles (City), the largest of the 88 cities within the County, the increase among unsheltered homeless persons was even steeper, increasing by 21%.

Over the past year, the County and the City have taken unprecedented actions to address homelessness in a collaborative fashion: spearheading separate but coordinated comprehensive homeless plans, setting aside significant sums of one-time funds to jumpstart the implementation of strategies, and pursuing avenues of additional annual resources.

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RIDLEY-THOMAS _____

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California Housing Partnership estimates that the County has a deficit of over 500,000 affordable housing units. Locally, the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) estimates that there is a gap of 15,000 units of permanent supportive housing, which are affordable housing units coupled with intensive home-based and community-based services. Multiple studies, including a report by the California Legislative Analyst's Office, demonstrate the need to invest in production of new affordable and permanent supportive housing stock.

There is clear public support for anti-homeless initiatives and tax measures. Two polls earlier this year demonstrated that over two-thirds of voters in the City would support a homeless housing bond. Polls of County residents, likewise, have indicated that voters are prepared to support taxes that would dedicate funds towards addressing the homeless crisis. The County supports the City's housing bond which will significantly increase the amount of affordable and permanent supportive housing units in the region. The County's Chief Executive Officer and LAHSA leaders estimate that, to fully address homelessness in the region, construction funds will need to be coupled with approximately \$450 million in annual supportive service funds, including integrated street engagement teams and health/behavioral health services. As a partner in the regional strategy to address homelessness, the County remains committed to providing the support services to move people out of homelessness into permanent supportive housing, and the retention services to keep formerly homeless persons housed.

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On June 27, 2016, the Los Angeles City Council unanimously approved placing a general obligation bond on the November 2016 ballot to generate \$1.2 billion to fund permanent housing for the chronically homeless and other forms of affordable housing. The passage of the City's housing bond in November would allow the region to accelerate the pace of production and make a significant dent in homelessness.

I THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, endorse and express its strong support for Proposition H, the City of Los Angeles' Homelessness Reduction and Prevention, Housing and Facilities General Obligation Bond Proposition, and urge voters of the City of Los Angeles to vote YES on Proposition H on November 8, 2016.

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(DW/YV)